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For Madrid coverage of the brief stopover visit to Spain by President Raul Alfonsin and his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 4 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

Returns, Comments on Trip

PY021410 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1145 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin returned today to the country at the end of a 9-day tour through several countries including Brazil, Kenya, India, Greece, and Spain, during which he held talks on disarmament.

The Argentine president, who arrived at Ezeiza International Airport at 0150 aboard an Argentine Air Force Boeing was welcomed at the airport by Vice President Victor Martinez, who has been in charge of the national executive branch, and six cabinet ministers. Later, in the presence of the government notary, President Alfonsin reassumed his presidential powers in a brief ceremony held at the airport's VIP hall, after which he granted a brief press conference.

Alfonsin stated on the occasion: "I am fully satisfied by everything achieved on the tour." Visibly tired after the lengthy trip, Alfonsin stated that during the meetings with the heads of state of the Group of Six, "we strengthened bilateral relations, especially with India and Greece," but above all, "the subject which led us to those meetings is the most important of all."

"During the meetings in New Delhi and Athens, we continuously stressed the fact that the struggle for disarmament is shared by the whole world and is above any ideological considerations," he stated. On reiterating the position expressed at the meetings in India and Greece, the Argentine president stated: "We must be participants in an action aimed at limiting the nuclear arms race."

SENATOR VIEWS TRUST ARRANGEMENT FOR FALKLANDS

PY030043 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2352 GMT 2 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (NA) -- Radical Civic Union Senator Antonio Berhongaray today said that the government of President Raul Alfonsin "could even accept" the possibility of agreeing with some leasing or trust system [arrendamiento o fideicomiso] for the Malvinas in exchange for prior recognition by Great Britain of Argentine sovereignty over the islands. Berhongaray also said that an important sector of the British Parliament, even Conservative MP's such as Keith Best, would be "willing to talk about the Malvinas issue with an open agenda because they believe that some kind of understanding should be reached with Buenos Aires."

In statements made at Ezeiza International Airport, Berhongaray, who accompanied Alfonsin on his tour to Kenya, India, Greece, and Spain, recalled that the possibility of leasing the Malvinas is an issue "that we already discussed with British legislators who visited the country in 1984."

"Leasing is one of the alternatives we do not discard and we can even accept it as a first stage because it means the transfer of sovereignty; they give us sovereignty and we then draw up a lease or trust," said the senator who presides over the Senate Defense Committee.

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SENATOR SUPPORTS LEASING OF FALKLANDS

FY050248 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Feb (TELAM) -- National Senator Adolfo Gass (Radical Civic Union, Buenos Aires), said today that he agrees with his colleague Antonio Berhongaragy that Argentina should accept the leasing of the Malvinas Islands, since this would imply the recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the islands. Asked by Radio Continental about this possibility, the legislator noted that this idea had been raised in May 1984 when we met with British Labor legislators.

Gass rejected the idea that as long as Margaret Thatcher is at the head of the British Government there will not be any progress on the sovereignty issue and he added: "We shall continue to try to achieve a dialogue with the British Government because we are persevering and it is our duty to do so since this is what is stated in a UN resolution and it is the obligation of UN members to take these resolutions into consideration and accept them as such." He reasserted that once the peace and friendship treaty with Chile is approved by the Argentine Congress, we shall strengthen our efforts to resume negotiations with the British Government over the Malvinas Islands. Gass noted that there is still not much information available about the leasing of the islands, but he added that there is some international precedence in this regard, such as the case of Hong Kong, and that he will continue studying the issue.

DECREE ISSUED ON MILITARY SUPREME COUNCIL

FY011903 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Jan 85 p 7

[Text] (NA) -- The Defence Ministry was authorized yesterday to recall retired military officers to active duty to serve on the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces following the refusal of most retired officers to replace the council members who resigned en bloc last October. Defence Ministry sources said the decree signed by Acting President Victor Martinez empowered the Defence Ministry to appoint recalled officers to the council whether the officers were in agreement or not with the appointment. The sources said if an officer refused to accept the appointment despite the provisions of the decree he could be cashiered and lose his pension rights.

The former council, whose resignations are still under consideration by the government, resigned when the Defence Ministry refused their request to issue a statement in defence of the council. The council had come under severe criticism because of its handling of trials of military officers accused of human rights violations during the so-called dirty war against left-wing subversion.

The government decree called on the three branches of the Armed Forces to submit lists of retired officers capable of assuming duties on the council. The ministry sources said the lists were delivered yesterday and the new council would probably be announced today.

The sources said appointments to the council had been offered to dozens of retired officers who consistently turned the offers down. This prompted the government to place the required officers back on active service and force them to take the job, the sources added.

The council is made up of nine members who elect a chairman from among their number with a three-year mandate.

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CHILEAN, BOLIVIAN MINISTERS MEET IN SANTO DOMINGO

PA080206 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2247 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Santo Domingo, 7 Feb (DPA) -- The foreign ministers of Bolivia and Chile, Edgar Camacho Omiste and Jaime del Valle, respectively, held a 3-hour long meeting in the Dominican Republic in an attempt at rapprochement promoted by the Colombian Government. The meeting took place last night in the Colombian Embassy in Santo Domingo and was attended by Colombian Foreign Minister Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, whose government is trying to mediate between the two countries which broke off diplomatic ties in March 1978. Ramirez Ocampo said that at the meeting, which followed the cancellation of a bilateral meeting that was to have taken place in Bogota a few days ago, Bolivia and Chile sought to reach detente. Edgar Camacho Omiste, who has just recently assumed the office of foreign minister, said only that the meeting was "useful," while his Chilean counterpart issued a brief communique stating that his government will resume official contacts with Bolivia when proper and adequate conditions emerge. The Colombian foreign minister said that during the meeting, which lasted until after midnight, Camacho and Del Valle reviewed developments prior to the failed Bogota meeting. Bolivia and Chile [words indistinct] its coasts on the Pacific Ocean.

DEL VALLE: FOREIGN DEBT PAYMENTS UP TO DATE

PY071820 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Chile is up to date in paying its foreign debt interests, which have been paid normally. Chile expects that the Cartagena Consensus will start a dialogue with the creditor countries in order to obtain reasonable terms of payment. These statements were made by Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle in the Dominican Republic, according to news agency reports. The Chilean minister added that unless such a dialogue takes place, the underdeveloped countries will be condemned to incur more debts each day. Del Valle assessed the process which was initiated with the creation of the group of Latin American debtors, and stressed that since then better conditions for a reasonable payment of the debt have been stipulated. The pressure of our meetings, he explained, has led to countries such as Argentina and Brazil negotiating their debts under more favorable terms. The minister concluded by saying that the Chilean foreign debt is now about $18 billion.

PERU'S PERCOVICH ON SHINING PATH, DEBT WITH USSR

PY082117 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1710 GMT 8 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 8 Feb (NA) -- Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Percovich denied here today the existence of "a direct relationship" between the Shining Path guerrilla group and the IMF adjustment program and attributed the existence of the extremist group to "ideological and political differences." During an interview granted to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, Percovich announced that in the next few weeks Peru will acquire "a sizable quantity of wheat" from Argentina and explained an agreement with the Soviet Union by which Peru pays for the purchase of Soviet arms with fish meal, minerals, and nontraditional goods instead of currency. Minister Percovich announced that "an important agreement with Argentina for the purchase of wheat" had been signed but did not give anu further details.

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BRITISH MP ON POSSIBLE SOLUTON FOR FALKLANDS

PY081350 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2037 GMT 7 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Feb (NA) -- British Conservative MP Cyril Townsend told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS today that by declaring the Malvinas Islands "an autonomous region," one which would be administered by its inhabitants, and by recognizing Argentine sovereignty over the archipelago, there "could be a solution" to the conflict over the islands.

He also said that "the ice between the two countries has still not thawed," so he believes that the resumption of negotiations within the next 6 months is "unlikely."

Townsend told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS by telephone from London that "a possible solution" could be found by declaring the islands "an autonomous region" to be "administered by its inhabitants" while "sovereignty remains in Argentine hands."

Regarding the possibility of leasing the islands to the United Kingdom, Townsend said "it could be a long-term possibility," adding that during his visit to Argentina last year, along with British Labor MP George Foulkes, "that possibility had been considered and that they, the British MPs and Argentine legislators they met with, viewed it as an elegant solution."

As for the current state of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom, Townsend said that the "severe attitude" of Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo regarding the British decision to grant a U.S. oil company a concession in the islands has hardened the British position.

In reacting to a concession to drill for oil in the Malvinas Islands, granted by the United Kingdom to the U.S. Firstland Oil Co, the Argentine Foreign Ministry released a communique during the first days of January saying that it "will not recognize" oil concessions in the Malvinas Islands granted by the United Kingdom.

"The most urgent thing," Townsend believes, is "to break the current standstill" between the two countries and to "begin working out" a solution to the century-old conflict.

He also confirmed the announcement made by MP George Foulkes regarding a 4-day meeting to the United States by Argentine and British legislators to try to find a solution to the conflict.

JUSTICIALIST FACTIONS CONTINUE INFIGHTING

PY091908 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 9 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- The Justicialist National Council elected at the Odeon Theatre yesterday called for a third party congress to be held on March 9; and the 2nd vice-president of the Peronist Party lower house bloc Ruben Cardoza summoned members to a meeting next Wednesday, February 13, to consider the bloc's leadership and stance in the house.

Lawyers for the Vernet-Iglesias-Miguel faction council (now called the "Justicialist Unity Sole Council" -- Consejo Unico de Unidad Justicialista) presented the summons to a third "unity congress" to electoral Judge Juan Fegoli, which they announced would be held at the Parque Norte installations on March 9.

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PANAMA'S CARDOZE ON CONTADORA POSTPONEMENT

PA151905 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 14 Feb 85 pp 23, 24

[By Demetrio Olaciregui]

[Text] Upon explaining the reasons why the joint meeting scheduled to begin today in this capital between the Contadora Group and the Central American foreign ministers was "postponed" until a later date, Panamanian Foreign Minister Fernando Cardoze Fabrega said that "the Contadora Group's efforts are difficult, but the mediation process continues."

"In all negotiations there are times of great activity and times of less activity. At this time we are working on achieving rapprochement among the Central American governments so that they can overcome their differences," Foreign Minister Cardoze added during a telephone conversation an midday today with LA REPUBLICA.

Upon the Contadora Group's completion of 2 years of peacemaking efforts on 9 January, the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama scheduled a meeting of "plenipotentiaries" from the five Central American countries for 14 and 15 February in Panama "with the aim of establishing verification and control mechanisms and discussing other issues that are to be resolved prior to signing the Contadora Document." The reason for gathering the "plenipotentiaries" was to have representatives with full power to negotiate and assume commitments on their governments' behalf.

The Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers met on Tuesday and Wednesday to prepare for the meeting. However, since the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua regarding the Nicaraguan refugee arrested under mysterious circumstances in the vicinity of the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua was not resolved, the meeting was not held.

"Despite the Contadora Group's mediation efforts in the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, no definite agreement has been achieved and under these circumstances it is best to postpone the meeting and attempt to have the two sides agree on the points of conflict," Foreign Minister Cardoze said. He pointed out that in the meantime the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers will continue their work by "moving forward, polishing the proposals, and preparing in depth for the meeting of Central American plenipotentiaries to discuss the Contadora document."

"When the conflict between Costa Rica and Nicaragua is resolved, the date of the plenipotentiaries' meeting will be announced," the Panamanian foreign minister said.

According to an official communique, "the Contadora Group reiterates its willingness to offer its good offices and its inflexible desire to mediate so that this bilateral matter or any other regional incident will be adequately resolved. To achieve this it is important to avoid having the negotiation and pacification process blocked by incidents such as these."

"The delicate Central American crisis deserves a renewed political effort to center all attention on the solution of problems, the magnitude and gravity of which cannot be overlooked," the communique stated, urging the "governments involved in the Central American conflict to continue negotiating in good faith, with flexibility, and with the conviction that in the end peace in the region will depend only on the efforts and responsibilities their governments adopt."

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MINISTRY DECLINES COMMENT ON UK ANNOUNCEMENT

PY212112 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2053 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry has no comment to make on the British Government's announcement that it will not lift the exclusion zone around the Malvinas archipelago, official spokesman Albino Gomez stated this afternoon. When the official was asked about the dissemination of a so-called white paper by the British Foreign Office, Gomez answered again: No comment.

DEPUTY DISCUSSES TALKS WITH BRITISH MP'S IN U.S.

PY212352 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1807 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (DYN) -- Federico Storani, president of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, today revealed in Washington that the talks he held there with British MP's on the Malvinas issue have led to "positive agreements in the field of sovereignty." However, he did make it clear that most British legislators and especially the London government are still maintaining an inflexible position.

Speaking to DYN by phone, Storani announced that a document signed at the end of the 3-day meeting sponsored by the University of Maryland will be released in 10 days. He indicated that copies of the document will soon be sent to both the British and Argentine Governments and that it does not mention the possibility of leasing the islands. Storani made it clear that "the document will include nothing revolutionary on the issue in question." Asked about further negotiations of this type, in which Storani participated along with Peronist Senator Julio Amoedo and former Radical Minister Juan Manuel Casella, Storani said that it is probable that a fourth round of talks will be held in the future and stressed that "the effort is worth it because they are changing their minds."

The Radical deputy later said that the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's remarks to the U.S. Congress to the effect that her government reaffirms British sovereignty over the archipelago and will not lift the exclusion zone under any circumstances had no influence on the talks between the lawmakers and were not even discussed.

Storani, who for 2 days participated in a number of informal meetings aimed at finding a formula for understanding in the Malvinas conflict, told DYN that the document drawn up with the British MP's will soon be "delivered to our respective governments, whereupon we will be free to discuss its contents." He went on to announce that the final communique "will disclose positive proposals" and he made it clear that "when we say positive, we mean positive in the field of sovereignty."

Upon being asked about the leasing of the islands as an option for an agreement, Storani explained that no specific mechanism was discussed during the talks while the door was left open for any solution, "as long as it provides for the principle of sovereignty."

Storani warned that even though "the number of parliamentarians who are adopting a flexible position is growing, they do not have the majority yet."

Speaking about the attitude of the London government, Storani said that Thatcher's policy is "aimed at satisfying domestic needs rather than at facing reality."

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